



July-August 2006

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here p. 5

Fridays, July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25 Native Here Nursery open 9 am -noon.

Saturdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, 26, Native Here Nursery open 10 am -1 pm.

Field trip p. 4

Sunday July 9, 2006, 2 pm, Pioneer Tree Trail, Samuel Taylor State Park

Picnic and Plant Fair Planning Meeting

Wednesday, July 12, 7:30 pm, home of Delia Taylor, 1851 Catalina Avenue, Berkeley
Please join us to plan two fun events.

Annual Potluck Picnic p. 6

Saturday, September 23, 2006, 2:00 pm, Regional Parks Botanic Garden

PEST PLANT ALERT



Japanese dodder attacking willow tree.
Photo by Friends of Five Creeks

A new pest parasite, *Cuscuta japonica* or Japanese dodder, has been found invading the East Bay. **Please be on the lookout and inform your county agriculture office if you see it.**

The leafless, bright yellow parasitic vine forms dense tangles on willows, blue elderberry, and wild plums on Cerrito Creek, on the Albany-Contra Costa border. Friends of Five Creeks, a volunteer

creek restoration group, reported the infestation after seeing an Alameda/Contra Costa Weed Management Area alert.

There are many native and non-native dodders in California, but no other forms thick, twisted, bright yellow mats in broad-leaf trees and shrubs. This dodder is capable of parasitizing many hosts: the two previous occurrences reported in California were on orchard trees in the Central Valley and *Pittosporum* at an apartment building in San Pablo.

There is a Department of Agriculture quarantine against importing plants or viable seed. But the rules are weak. Vince Guise of the Alameda/Contra Costa Weed Management Authority reports that seed from a recent, supposedly sterile shipment, imported as herbal medicine, were found to sprout readily.

Plants spread both by seed and vegetatively. Once the sticky seed, or the long, twisting growing tip, finds a home, it sends root-like haustoria into the host's limbs, sucking out water and nutrients.

Plants should be handled and disposed of with extreme caution. The Weed Management Area recommends that you contact them for removal rather than doing it yourself. If you do work on the parasite, their recommendation is removal of the entire tree or shrub down to the ground, careful double bagging of all debris, and disposal where nothing could possibly take root (buried in landfill with good soil cover, not composted).

In Alameda or Contra Costa Counties, contact Vince Guise, vguis@ag.cccounty.us.

Susan Schwartz

CONSERVATION REPORT

January 2005 — June 2006

The Conservation Committee of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) is dedicated to preserving the flora of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The committee is comprised of botanists, ecologists, advocates, teachers, and native plant enthusiasts communicating science-based information for the protection of the plants and landscapes of the East Bay. Below is a condensed list of projects addressed in the past year and a half.

Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse EBCNPS has been working with the City of Concord and catalyzing a group of environmentally minded constituents to communicate sustainable redevelopment ideas, including the dedication of a large contiguous open space, smart growth, and watershed protection.

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan EBCNPS has participated in the EIR and Plan process. Implementation of the plan will require constant EBCNPS input, so that lands purchased for open space will have native plant habitat value.

Bay Area Uplands Goals EBCNPS facilitated a meeting with the Bay Area Open Space Council in order to standardize certain aspects of the protocol and develop a scientifically rigorous prioritization protocol that will include both individual plants and plant communities.

Alameda Riparian Corridors Moratorium EBCNPS supports the Specific Plan for Areas of Environmental Significance voted into law by Alameda County supervisors in 1976 and has been monitoring non-compliance with this law and the resulting destruction of many valuable watercourses. See page 3.

North Livermore Irrigated Agriculture EBCNPS has submitted letters critical of development plans and arguing that irrigation will threaten the rare alkali sink.

Crestmont Serpentine Development EBCNPS is working with the City of Oakland, which has issued questionable building permits with potential negative effects on federally listed species.

Carnegie ORV Expansion EBCNPS has participated in the scoping process and advising/educating the California State Parks ORV staff on the vegetation of the area.

Serpentine Prairie EBCNPS has teamed with EBRPD and local park users in helping restore, maintain, and preserve these rare and sensitive communities.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion EBCNPS is working with the Contra Costa Water District on alternatives to inundating and converting 2000 acres of habitat.

Apperson Ridge Quarry EBCNPS supports the cessation of this mining project. Its EIR is outdated, and the information about its potential environmental impacts is limited.

Point Molate EBCNPS is working with various groups to protect Pt. Molate and its wonderful coastal prairie, shrub land, riparian woodland and coastal woodland. Those areas are some of the better reference sites in the East Bay, and they merit preservation.

Urban Limit Line Expansion for Antioch, Brentwood, Concord, Livermore, and Pittsburg EBCNPS supports smart growth and infill over expansion of the ULL.

Sibley Preserve EBCNPS successfully participated in convincing the EBRPD Board not to approve a plan which included a large group campsite high in the preserve.

Oakley-East Cypress and Dutch Slough Development EBCNPS has stood strongly against developing sensitive wetland communities and building housing below sea level, which the City of Oakley continues to support.

Pleasanton's Bernal Park Development EBCNPS has worked to help maintain a city park and recreation area sensitive to special status plants.

Lech Naumovich

Conservation Analyst, conservation@ebcnps.org

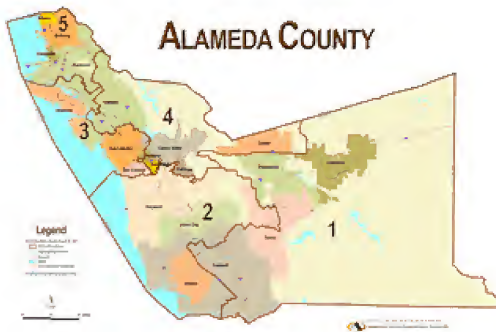
California Native Plant Society

HELP PROTECT THE RIPARIAN CORRIDORS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) is joining with the Sierra Club in an effort to protect riparian corridors in Alameda County. For 29 years the County has been out of compliance with a Specific Plan adopted for the designation and protection of riparian corridors and creeks throughout the unincorporated land in the County. At the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on May 4, 2006, the BOS unanimously voted for a 45-day moratorium on new development anywhere within 50 feet of the top of the bank (active channel). This decision was supported because the Board agreed that the County is out of compliance and needs to address non-compliance issues. The Board and Planning Commission will be moving forward to redress 29 years of non-compliance by writing a new management plan for riparian areas. EBCNPS supports the existing Specific Plan for Areas of Environmental Significance (SPAES). Additionally, EBCNPS supports an updated "riparian vegetation list" that is more inclusive of wetland/riparian plants and communities, as well as a more inclusive list of important drainages, riparian areas, and special status plants.

TAKE ACTION

Contact your representative supervisor:



District 1: (510) 272-6691
Scott Haggerty
District 2: (510) 272-6692
Gail Steele
District 3: (510) 272-6693
Alice Lai-Bitker
District 4: (510) 272-6694
Nate Miley
District 5: (510) 272-6695
Keith Carson

Please contact your supervisor and let him or her know that you support a moratorium on development in riparian and creek areas until the County can comply with its approved County-wide Specific Plan from 29 years ago. Contact the supervisors and inform them tactfully that there is a need to enforce the existing riparian protection efforts and enforce the protection of our native plants that occur in the creeks and riparian corridors and floodplains in unincorporated areas of Alameda County. Please let them know that the scope of the original SPAES plan is appropriate for saving our watersheds and rivers from additional degradation.

For more information, contact Lech Naumovich at conservation@ebcnps.org.

FIELD TRIP

Sunday July 9, 2006, 2 pm, **Pioneer Tree Trail, Samuel Taylor State Park.** The Pioneer Tree Trail is about two miles, with several hundred feet of elevation change. There are old growth redwoods and logged redwood groves. It is typically cooler and damper in the forest, so there are summer blooms.

Directions: From the East Bay, cross the Richmond Bridge and take the Sir Francis Drake exit (second exit from 580 after the bridge). From San Francisco, take the Golden Gate Bridge; continue north on 101, and then exit at the San Anselmo/Richmond Bridge exit (well past Sausalito). Stay to the left at the exit ramp, and turn onto Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Once you

reach Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, you follow it straight across nearly all of Marin County. After passing the town of Lagunitas, you enter Samuel Taylor State Park and soon after you enter redwood groves. After a mile or two, look for the park headquarters and main picnic area on the left. Enter the park headquarters area and pay the entrance fee, whether or not the booth is staffed. Park in the main picnic area and walk over the footbridge toward the campground and group picnic area. Meet David in the group picnic parking lot to the left, over the bridge, at the start of the Pioneer Tree Trail. For more information, contact David Margolies at 510-654-0283 or 510-393-1858 (cell) or divaricatum@aol.com.

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES

This year's plant sale will be more than just a sale—we're planning a Native Plant Fair! Along with beautiful native plants for sale, there will be talks and demonstrations, live music, and fun activities for children.

We're still working to relocate our growing grounds and sale to the Dunsmuir Estate, but this sort of endeavor takes time. While we hope to hold this year's sale at the new site, we don't yet know whether we'll be in a position to do that by October. So we're going to plan

the Native Plant Fair for an alternate location, which we'll announce in the September Bay Leaf and on the chapter website. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 7!

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about our plant sale: rosacalifornica@earthlink.net or 510-496-6016.

Sue Rosenthal

NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION TEAM

Join us Saturday July 15th, 8:30 am-1 pm
Star Thistle Extravaganza! Skyline Serpentine Prairie, Oakland

Last year's determined, month long effort to remove the bulk of the star thistle infestation from this botanically rich site seems to really have paid off. Confined now primarily to the perimeter of the main prairie, the occurrence of the thistle is a fraction of what it was last year. It's all the more reason to be vigilant and enthusiastically continue towards the goal of ultimately removing the star thistle from this East Bay treasure.

A lot has happened since last year. From the concern of an EBCNPS volunteer participant and her friend a grassroots effort was begun that assembled and presented hundreds of signatures to the EBRPD board concerning dog use at the park. Serious efforts are now underway to address this problem and find alternative solutions.

At around the same time the Park District began its ambitious plan to remove all trees not indigenous to the site, for the reason that the delicate soil content that nurtures native serpentine flowers and plants is dramatically altered and made less hospitable by the

compost that occurs from introduced trees. (Joaquin Miller himself forever altered the serpentine prairie now buried under the thousands of trees he planted years ago at the park that bears his name.)

If you have ever felt concern for the conditions at the Prairie, now is the perfect time to do something about it. Come be part of this effort to save one of the best remaining serpentine prairies in the East Bay.

Greg Wolford

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES

Gardens are being sought to participate in the Sunday, May 6, 2007 **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**, which will showcase bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving gardens that contain 30% or more California native plants. Gardens must be located in Alameda or Contra Costa counties. To receive an application or to be added to the mailing list, email Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call 510-236-9558 between 9 am and 9 pm.

NATIVE HERE

Fridays, July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25 Native Here Nursery open 9 am -noon
Saturdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, 26, Native Here Nursery open 10 am -1 pm

The good news is that we keep expanding the nursery and have more plants than ever. We've moved all our inland plants from Mt. Diablo, Briones, Walnut Creek, Livermore, and El Sobrante to warmer areas of the nursery, and they are looking much better. The bush lupines, valley and blue oaks, purple needle grasses, yarrows, hop trees, buttercups, and others are happier.

The bad news is that we have more plants than ever and therefore need more help with watering. Janice is overwhelmed with the watering on Wednesday, so if you can spare an hour or so on a weekday to help us water the plants each week during the dry summer months, please let us know (call 510-549-0211 and leave a message or email nativehere@ebcnps.org). We also need volunteers to help us pot up all the small plants we have into bigger pots so they will be ready for the planting season starting in the fall. If you like bulbs, we'll be screening and potting bulbs at the end of August. We'll also be sowing seeds starting in August. And there's always weeding and trimming that need to be done around the nursery. As you can see, we have a lot of work to do this summer, so come on by Fridays 9 am-noon or early Saturdays (before 11 am preferably,

as we tend to get busy with customers after that time) and we'll put you to work.

Summer is too hot and dry to plant anything unless you can give it water and shade, but you can still plan your garden or restoration project. We have several reference books on native plants that you can peruse, and we sell a few publications as well.

If you have some plastic pots you would like to donate to us, we accept them during our open hours. If you need some pots for your planting projects, we have a large bin just outside our top gate full of different sizes and colors of pots that you can take.

On Tuesdays we collect seeds at various East Bay locations. Meet at the bottom gate of Native Here across from the Tilden Golf Course parking lot exit at 9 am. We usually return by about 1 pm, but sometimes later if we go farther afield. To find out the location each week email nativehere@ebcnps.org.

We are located in Tilden Park at 101 Golf Course Drive (across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course), 510-549-0211.

Margot Cunningham, Native Here Nursery

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Father's Day, June 18, 2006, **Miller Knox Regional Park, Richmond**

1 pm to 4 pm, Richmond Father's Day in the Park

Celebrate Father's Day, enjoy Richmond's fabulous shoreline. Fun events for the whole family, kite flying, naturalists, historians, and exclusive tours of Point Molate.

Getting there: from I-580 West take the Canal Street exit, turn left on Canal, turn right on Cutting, turn left on Garrard. Go through the tunnel and look for the kites! For more information, call 510-848-0800 x 304 or email mdaley@sfbaycs.org.

Ron Parsons of the **Orchid Society of California** will lead a hike in search of native orchids in the Pescadero area on July 23. This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to see California's native orchids in their natural habitat. The fee will be \$5.00 for O.S.C. members and \$10.00 for non-members. Please contact Mimi Rose, O.S.C. greenhouse tour coordinator, for more details at rose4mimi@yahoo.com or 510-569-8683, or visit the O.S.C. web site at www.Orchidsocietyofcalifornia.org.

THE EAST BAY CHAPTER NEEDS YOU

We are looking for new Board Members for 2007. Are you one of those members that has thought an event we have held could have been a little better or a little different in order to better educate the public? Are we addressing all the issues with native plants that you would like to see us address? Here is your opportunity to offer innovative ideas to your California Native Plant Society Chapter.

Seats available are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Poster/Book Sales, and Hospitality. Please contact a present Board Member that you know (see next to last page with all contact information) or me, Elaine P. Jackson, elaiejx@mindspring.com, 925-372-0687. Look for more information on our web-site, www.ebcnps.org.

Save the Date!

**ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC
for the EAST BAY CHAPTER of CNPS**

**Saturday, September 23, 2006,
beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

**At the beautiful
Regional Parks Botanic Garden
(Intersection of South Park Drive and Wildcat Canyon Road
in Tilden Park, Berkeley)**

All are welcome—bring your family and friends and a dish to share.

Enjoy the company of fellow native plant enthusiasts along with great food and drink, a native plant raffle, a garden tour, and much more, including some fun new activities!

For more information: 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

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Open

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PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

Chapter web site
www.ebcnps.org

Recorded Chapter Information
510-464-4977

State CNPS web site
www.cnps.org

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

____ Student, limited income, \$25

____ Individual, Library, \$45

____ Household, Family, or Group, \$75

____ Supporting, \$75

____ Plant lover, \$100

____ Patron, \$300

____ Benefactor, \$600

____ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816



Clematis lasiantha, Pinnacles National Monument. Photo by Greg Wolford

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

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Time Value
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